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## **Businesses awarded Best Workplaces for Commuters**

Wednesday October 18, 6:10 pm ET

The Sacramento Area Council of Governments, the region's transportation planning agency, has announced the 2006 list of Best Workplaces for Commuters, highlighting 64 employers and a South Natomas district that offer benefits to commuters.

The list is coordinated by Sacramento business, transportation and environmental organizations in addition to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Four Fortune 500 companies with work sites in the region are on the list, including Apple Computer Inc., Hewlett-Packard Co., Intel Corp. and Northrop Grumman Corp. Others on the list range from government agencies and universities to local banks and health organizations. The South Natomas Best Workplaces for Commuters District encompasses 31 buildings where workers are offered benefits funded through the Transportation Management Association. It is one of 22 eligible districts in the nation.

To qualify, organizations and districts must meet certain requirements such as offering a guaranteed/emergency ride home program or at least three commuter benefits. For example, H-P in Roseville offers a monthly \$40 transit subsidy, on-site bike lockers and showers, and preferred parking for carpoolers. Intel offers a \$30-a-month vanpool and transit subsidy, emergency ride home services and on-site commuter benefits such as a fitness center, locker rooms and other services such as dry cleaning. In 2004, 40 percent of Intel's workers telecommuted nationally.

In another example, Mercy General Hospital offers such services as free meal vouchers for each day employees walk, bike or motorbike, and fully subsidized light-rail and bus passes. Sacramento architecture, planning and urban design firm Mogavero Notestine Associates offers an on-site kitchen and showers and secure bike parking.

"These organizations are doing their part to reduce air pollution and traffic congestion by offering excellent benefits to their employees," said Mayor Heather Fargo in a prepared statement.

Fargo is chairwoman for SACOG. According to the council, the 90,000 commuters covered by the Best Workplaces list will help reduce 43,789 metric tons of carbon dioxide per year, or a reduction equal to growing more than 33,000 acres of pine trees for a year.

Published October 18, 2006 by the Sacramento Business Journal

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